

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested. Claims 1-28 are in this case. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 14. The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 13. The Examiner has allowed claims 15-21 and 23-28.

Independent claim 1 and dependent claim 13 have now been amended to conform to material indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Dependent claim 5 has now been cancelled.

The Applicant believes that all claims now before the Examiner correspond to material indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6 and 14 as unpatentable over Tamura, US 4,588,990 (Tamura) in view of Yamamoto et al., US 6,381,428 (Yamamoto). The Examiner has rejected claim 7 as unpatentable over Tamura in view of Yamamoto as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Zur, US 5,289,214. The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 11 as being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Yamamoto as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Suzuki et al, US 6,112,046 (Suzuki).

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, and without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the rejected claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend independent claim 1 to recite all of the limitations of claim 5. The Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, amended independent claim 1, which recites all of these limitations to conform to what the Examiner has indicated to be patentable subject matter, is now patentable.

Claim 13 has now been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1, and thus is in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 depend from independent claim 1, which has been re-written in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, and thus claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 now correspond to allowable subject matter.

Objections

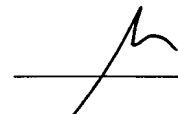
The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected based claim. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite all of the limitations of claim 5, thereby conforming to material indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now before the Examiner recite subject matter identified by the Examiner to be allowable.

Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark M. Friedman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,883

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